

By:



S.C.R. No.

95

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In the history of the State of Texas, distinguished men have, from time to time, made such a significant mark and impact which makes special public recognition inevitable; and

WHEREAS, Some common traits are evidenced among these men: love of country, respect for history, compassion for their fellow man, a strong sense of direction and dedication, and an inherent proclivity for lasting friendships; Senator A. M. Aikin, Jr., is one of these men; and

WHEREAS, A. M. Aikin, Jr., was born at Aikin Grove, Red River County, on October 9, 1905; in 1907, the family moved to Lamar County where his father operated a general store at Milton; he completed ten grades in the three teacher school at Milton, and rode horseback the distance of four miles to Deport where he graduated from high school in 1923; he attended Paris Junior College in 1923 and 1924, during which time he milked cows to earn his room and board; and

WHEREAS, From 1925 to 1931, he was employed by Mr. Arthur Caddel in a department store, and gives Mr. Caddel credit for making it possible for him to attend Cumberland University at Lebanon, Tennessee, where he graduated in 1932 with a Bachelor of Laws degree; on May 25, 1929, he and Miss Welma Morpew were united in marriage; this marriage has been a partnership where both have shared the good years and the bad, the joys and the sorrows, with unwavering love for and devotion to each other; they are the proud parents of a son, A. M. Aikin III, and the grandparents of his three delightful children; and

WHEREAS, He has served more than forty years as a member of the Texas Legislature, having served two terms in the House of Representatives from 1933 to 1937, prior to coming to the Senate in 1937; he has been chairman of the two most powerful committees of the Senate, the Finance and State Affairs Committees; and he served as chairman of the Committee on Higher Education for many years; he has also chaired the Employment Committee, the Contingent Expense Committee and the General Investigating Committee, and he has been appointed to nearly every committee in the Senate during his career in state government; and

WHEREAS, A. M. Aikin, Jr., was elected by his colleagues to serve as President Pro Tempore of the Senate in 1943, and was Acting Governor on several occasions; he has been the Dean of the Senate since January of 1963, and he holds the distinction of serving the longest tenure in the Senate in the history of Texas; throughout his years in the Legislature, he has maintained a vital interest in the constructive improvement of education, and an intense desire to

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provide an equal opportunity for every child in Texas to receive an education; he has introduced and supported major educational legislation and co-authored the Gilmer-Aikin Laws which brought Texas to the forefront of the nation in education; he is recognized as the father of modern Texas education; and

WHEREAS, He has been honored by many state and national organizations for his leadership in the field of education; in 1953, he was given the Distinguished Service Award by the Texas State Teachers Association; in 1958, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Midwestern University in recognition of his contribution to education; in 1967, he received one of two awards from the National Education Association for his aid to rural education; in 1969, he was the recipient of the first citation given by the East Texas State University Chapter of Texas College Teachers Association as Patron of Higher Education; and in 1970, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by East Texas State University; and

WHEREAS, Aside from his rewarding and distinguished career in Texas government, he is a successful businessman in Paris, Texas; he is a senior member of the law firm of Aikin and Townsend, and the senior partner of Aikin's Men's Wear; for many years, he has been a director of the Liberty National Bank in Paris, and he is a Mason and a member of the Rotary Club; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Senate of the 63rd Legislature of Texas, the House of Representatives concurring, that Senator A. M. Aikin, Jr., father of modern Texas education, be and he is hereby commended for his exemplary record of service to his county, state and nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the portrait of Senator A. M. Aikin, Jr., which was commissioned by S.R. No. 347 during the 3rd Called Session of the 62nd Legislature, and which portrait has now been completed by the distinguished artist, Mr. Charles J. Fox, be hung in the Senate Chamber as a permanent expression of the love, respect, admiration and appreciation for Senator A. M. Aikin, Jr., by his colleagues and the people of the State of Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a Joint Session of the Legislature be held in the Senate Chamber at 11:00 a.m. on May 26, 1973, for the purpose of formally unveiling the portrait and honoring Senator A. M. Aikin, Jr.; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Governor Dolph Briscoe be requested to proclaim the day of May 26, 1973, as Senator A. M. Aikin, Jr. Day in Texas.

May 7, 1973
Miss Key

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RESOLVED, That Governor Dolph Briscoe be requested to
proclaim the day of May 26, 1973, as Senator A. M. Aikin, Jr. Day
in Texas.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 95 was adopted by the senate
on May 4, 1973.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 95 was adopted by the house
on May 5, 1973.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

May 9, 1973
Date

Signed
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
8:50 AM O'CLOCK

MAY 10 1973

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Secretary of State

S.C.R. No. 95

By: Hightower
Hightower

Calling for a Joint Session of the Legislature for the formal
unveiling of the portrait of Senator A. M. Aikin, Jr.

MAY 4 1973

Received from
the Senate

_____ Filed with the Secretary
of the Senate.

_____ Read first time and
referred to Committee on _____

_____ Reported favorably.

_____ Ordered not printed by
the Senate. _____

Immediate consideration ordered by

{ unanimous consent.

{ _____ yeas, _____ nays.

_____ Read and Adopted.

Secretary of the Senate

MAY 4 1973

Immediate consideration ordered by
unanimous consent
~~_____~~

MAY 4 1973

Read and Adopted.

Charles Schnabel

Secretary of the Senate

ADD NAMES OF THE LT. GOV.
AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

May 4, 1973

Billie

Engrossing Clerk

MAY 4 1973

Sent to House.

Torothy Hallman
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives

READ FIRST TIME
AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON _____

MAY 5 1973

MOTION TO SUSPEND ALL NECESSARY RULES IN
ORDER TO TAKE UP AND CONSIDER AT THIS TIME
PREVAILED BY NON-RECORD VOTE.

WTH 95

Torothy Hallman
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives

MAY 5 1973

DATE _____

READ AND ADOPTED

Torothy Hallman
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

MAY 5 1973

RETURNED TO SENATE

RETURNED MAY 7 1973

FROM HOUSE